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Hachmey Lev Yeshiva High School-2013-2014

Name of program

Hachmey Lev Yeshiva High School

Year of activity

2013-2014

Name of the report's writer

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Status of program

Launched in August 2013, Hachmey Lev is an innovative Yeshiva High School for mainstream, Haredi boys aged between 13-18 years, and leads to a high quality Israeli matriculation certificate. The program has made a promising start with 15 students completing ninth grade in July 2014, and 50 students enrolled for 2014-15 (in ninth and tenth grades).

The Israeli Ministry of Education has officially recognized Hachmey Lev as a registered junior high school and a registered boarding school. These developments have effectively secured long-term Ministry of Education funding for the school.

The need for a permanent campus for Hachmey Lev continues to be a central priority. During 2013-14, Hachmey Lev utilized classrooms and residential facilities in a partitioned section of Boyar High School in Jerusalem. In 2014-15 however, given the sharp increase in student

numbers, Hachmey Lev students spend their school day at Boyar but utilize the residential facilities at Amalia (in an adjacent neighborhood). This arrangement is not sustainable for more than one year, and SAE has therefore increased its efforts to find a new venue for the school in 2015-16.

Main achievements during the last year of activity

- In 2013-14 Hachmey Lev opened with 11 students and closed with 18 students in ninth grade. During the course of the year, a total of 24 students spent time at Hachmey Lev, but nine either dropped out or were expelled because they were incompatible with the program. At its peak, in January 2014, Hachmey Lev had 18 students.
- Ten students slept over in the residence during the week, while the remainder were day students.
- Hachmey Lev succeeded in offering a curriculum of 53 weekly hours, including 32 weekly hours of Talmud and 21 weekly hours of general studies.
- In Talmud, Hachmey Lev reached its projected goal for the students to cover 60 folio pages during the course of the year.
- In general studies, the following subjects were offered: science, mathematics, history, English, and sport. Technology was not offered at a high level because the school lacks the equipment and laboratories needed. Wherever possible, Hachmey Lev students used the labs at Boyar High School.
- The following cultural enrichment activities were offered: visits to the Old City of Jerusalem including a ceremony on Yom Hazikaron (memorial day for fallen Israel soldiers and victims of terror); a visit to the Gush Etzion Museum; a day in which students learnt navigation skills in the Bet Shemesh area and studied the famous battle between David and Goliath; visits to the Science Museum in Jerusalem; guest lecturers on topics in history; a panel on Religion and State; and visits from prominent Israeli poets.
- Extra-curricular activities were offered on a weekly basis in art, martial arts, chess, thinking and strategy games.
- While Hachmey Lev anticipated spending 10 weekends (Shabbat B'Yachad) together during the year, in practice only one Shabbat was held (at a Yeshiva in the city of Betar on November 23rd 2013.)
- A Hachmey Lev school trip was held at Mizpeh Ramon over January 19th and 20th, and 18 students participated.

Evaluation

Hachmey Lev was evaluated internally against the following criteria:

Quantitative: Number of students enrolled - 24, number of students that graduated – 15, number of students to enroll in the following year – 52.

Qualitative: Average grade for each class were as follows: Gemara Depth (76%), Gemara Context (80%), Torah (81%), Prophets and Writings (80%), Mathematics (88%), English (94%), Science (80%), History (85%), Sport (86%).

Others

Hachmey Lev in 2014-15

- Sixteen students are enrolled in tenth grade, and 36 are enrolled in ninth grade. Total 52 students.
- The Yeshiva high school operates out of Boyar High School and the residence is at Amalia Educational Residence in Jerusalem, and SAE operates a shuttle service between each location twice a day.
- The curriculum will run from 07:30 – 21:30 every day from Sunday through Thursday, and on Fridays from 07:30 until noon, following the same structure as classical yeshivot in the Haredi education system.
- The curriculum includes 53 weekly hours of formal instruction. 32 weekly hours are from the ultra-orthodox curriculum, and include slower paced Talmud study. 21 weekly hours are from the general curriculum: (Four hours per-day between Sunday and Thursday during afternoon hours.) Note: this is more than what is offered by any other Haredi institution in Israel. In parallel 6 weekly hours have been allocated for extra-curricular activities, sports and additional tuition as necessary. Each student will receive 2-3 weekly hours of additional tuition, provided by a professional teacher in small groups of no more than four students each.

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